

United States Air Force

# Retiree Activities Office



Tyndall AFB, Florida

April 14, 2000

## Pharmacy news: 325th MDG officials answer policy questions

*Courtesy of the 325th Medical Group*

A recent *Gulf Defender* article tackled the issue of soaring drug prices and how TRICARE is working to maintain your pharmacy benefit. However, with all the changes in medical services, it's understandable that many retirees have questions about their pharmacy benefit and prescription policies at Tyndall.

Located next to the base exchange, the 325th Medical Group operates a full-service pharmacy, six days a week for your convenience. Our hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. However, Saturdays and weekdays, from 5-7 p.m. are reserved for refill pickup only.

Due to minimal staffing after hours and Saturdays, retiree prescriptions can only be processed during normal business hours. Our pharmacy must comply with all applicable federal and state laws that require sufficient staffing and direct pharmacist oversight when processing civilian prescriptions. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Our goal is to fill every new prescription during your visit. Nevertheless, to avoid delays in processing your new prescription, please make sure your doctor includes the drug name, strength, quantity, dosage instruction and doctor's signature (stamped prescriptions not accepted).

Formulary copies are available upon request. Your doctor can choose from this list when prescribing your medicine without unnecessary delays. Schedule II narcotics must be presented within one week of being written and have the doctor's DEA number and signature on them. Schedule III through V narcotics must be presented within one month of being written and have the doctor's DEA number and signature on them. Please consult your physician or call the pharmacy at 283-7576 for questions on your prescription type.

At Tyndall, we also offer prescription refills by phone, 24 hours a day. Prescriptions can be refilled by calling 283-7177 or (800) 356-5273. If you call before 3 p.m., your prescription will be ready for pickup the next duty day. Due to the high volume of prescriptions filled, same-day walk-in refill service is not available.

Many retirees use the pharmacy as part of their base exchange or commissary shopping trip, so please plan ahead. Also note, when picking up a prescription for another individual, you must adhere to the following guidelines.

The individual must have a valid identification card and the patient's military ID card (or copy of front and back). In addition, the representative must have a signed statement or power of attorney from that patient authorizing them to act on their behalf for this purpose. We have "Authorization for Release of Medication" cards at the

pharmacy. These can be used as a signed statement.

For retirees and their dependents who cannot make it to Tyndall, TRICARE has an extensive network of civilian pharmacies to choose from at affordable prices. For retirees and their dependents enrolled in TRICARE prime, a 30-day supply costs \$9. Under TRICARE standard, the cost for a 30-day supply is 25 percent of the prescription cost at a non-network pharmacy and 20 percent of the prescription cost at a network pharmacy. Also note, the normal deductible is waived for prescriptions filled at network pharmacies only. For more information, call the managed care office, 283-7331, or the TRICARE Service Center, (800) 444-5445.

Retirees and their dependents using maintenance medication on an ongoing basis, such as medication to reduce blood pressure or treat asthma, diabetes or any long-term health condition may want to consider the National Mail Order Pharmacy. You can receive up to a 90-day supply of non-controlled medications or up to a 30-day supply of controlled medications for only \$8. There are restrictions which apply, so please call the managed care office at the above number for details.

On another note, the Tyndall pharmacy is still looking for volunteers willing to help distribute prescriptions. For more information, call Master Sgt. David Ashley at 283-7049.



Staff Sgt. Mona Ferrell

**Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Lendy M. Quick, Panama City, fills out a prescription form at the satellite pharmacy.**

## Base legal office provides will-preparation services to retirees

**1st Lt. Miranda Turner**  
325th Fighter Wing  
assistant judge advocate

Wills, living wills and durable powers of attorney are important legal documents that help you make sure your affairs are managed properly in case of your death or incapacitation.

A will is a legal document that directs the disposition of your property after your death. Having a current will helps to ensure your property will be distributed to whom you choose in the manner you choose. If you do not have a will, your property will be distributed to your relatives according to the laws of the state of your legal residency, and you will have no control over who receives your assets.

Dying without a will could result in some or all of your assets being distributed to someone whom you did not intend to receive them. Even if you want your property distributed in the same manner as the state statute provides, having a will allows your heirs to receive your property more quickly and easily than if there was no will in existence.

Wills also allow you to designate who you would like to serve as your executor, called your personal representative in Florida. By designating a personal representative, you can avoid having the court choose one for you, as well as avoid the expense of bond premiums which are normally required of the personal representative.

Wills should be updated every few years, or whenever a major change in your life status

occurs, such as marriage, divorce or the birth or adoption of a child. These events may change or invalidate gifts made in your will, necessitating the execution of a new will.

Living wills are legal documents in which you give instructions about the measures you want taken to sustain your life in case you become incapacitated and cannot make those decisions for yourself. For instance, you may state that you do not want to be kept alive on artificial life support in the case of a loss of brain function, when there is no chance of recovery. Although your doctor is not bound by the will, living wills do allow medical professionals and your family to know your wishes.

Durable powers of attorney are legal documents that allow your designee to handle your financial affairs if you become incapacitated.

This is important because it avoids the expense of a court-appointed guardian, and ensures that someone you trust will handle your finances if you become unable to do so yourself.

The Tyndall legal office can prepare both traditional wills and living wills for retired military personnel. Will and living-will preparation for retirees is by appointment only, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Appointments may be made by calling 283-4681. Please stop by the office, in Building 662, prior to your scheduled appointment to pick up a will worksheet. Bring the completed worksheet with you to help the attorney preparing your will to assess your needs. Powers of attorney and notary services are also available between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.





# Team Tyndall names new RAO director

**Brig. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III**  
325th Fighter Wing  
commander

I am excited about the improvements retired Col. Bobby Kirkland has made since becoming Retiree Activities Office director in December. Since he's taken over, the RAO has fully joined the information age, administering a new web site to provide valuable information to retirees about base and Air Force-wide programs.

Because it's so convenient, I'd encourage everyone to take advantage of the information that's available online. You can access your pay accounts, learn what prescription drugs are available through our satellite pharmacy and tons of other useful information. However, we recognize that not everyone has access to computers and the Internet, so we're committed to continuing the service of providing this newsletter. If you have

news or information you think would be valuable to other retirees, make sure you contact Col. Kirkland at (850) 283-2737 or by e-mail at [tyndallrao@aol.com](mailto:tyndallrao@aol.com). The newsletter can be a great tool for all our local military retirees, but only if we all participate and give feedback on it.

We're working with Col. Kirkland to make the newsletter the best we can because we recognize the crucial role military retirees play in Team Tyndall. Your service to our nation is a debt that we can never repay, and so many of you continue to volunteer your time to make Tyndall a great place to live and work.

Those who volunteer make such a big difference to the people they serve, but I know they derive a great deal of personal satisfaction knowing how important they are to Team Tyndall. I want to thank all of you for your continued service and encourage other retired members of Team Tyndall to follow your lead.



## RAO corner

### RAO web page online; provides beneficial information to retirees

**Retired Col. Bobby J. Kirkland**  
Retiree Activities Office  
director

I have been in the director's chair in the Tyndall Retiree Activities Office now for about four months. Changes have been somewhat slow, but we seem to be making some progress.

About one month ago, a web page for the RAO was put online to provide another source of information which we expect will be beneficial to you. For example, the hospital formulary, (list of prescription drugs) is available not only for Tyndall, but for Eglin AFB and Ft. Rucker, Ala. as well.

Access the web site from the Tyndall Home

Page at: [www.tyndall.af.mil](http://www.tyndall.af.mil). From there, click on "Retiree News." You can also read the latest issue of our retiree newsletter as well as the Air Force Retiree Newsletter, "Afterburner." The Air Force Personnel Center site has links to numerous subjects of interest to retirees.

We welcome any comments and suggestions you may have to improve the content of the web site.

Finally, I ask you to help us and our fellow retirees by volunteering just three hours a week in the retiree activities office. It is a great opportunity to keep up to date on retiree programs. If you would like to volunteer or discuss ideas, call the RAO, 283-2737. I think you will find volunteering to be a rewarding

experience.



**Retired Col. Bobby J. Kirkland**



Lisa Carroll

### Certificate of appreciation

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Tony Fazio, Retiree Activities Office volunteer, receives a certificate of appreciation from Col. William L. Bledsoe, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, April 5 for being selected as the RAO volunteer of the year. Fazio volunteers his time to ensure retired military members know about and understand their benefits.

## Preparing for long-term health care; know the cost

**Retired Col. Bobby J. Kirkland**  
Retiree Activities Office  
director

Retirement for most of us is thought to be a time to relax, play some golf, visit with children and grandchildren or do some traveling. And that is what retirement should be, but then not every thing happens as it should or as we planned.

Most of us cannot think of ourselves or our loved ones ever being in need of daily care or a nursing home. It is not what any of us want, but it happens, and more often than many think. For that reason, we may wish to learn more about what would happen if we or a loved one must go into a skilled nursing facility—a place where long-term

health care is a necessity. Medicare normally pays for the first 20 days of skilled nursing-home care and a lesser percentage for the next 80 days, and then nothing thereafter.

Industry estimates range from \$30,000 to \$60,000 per year, depending on where you live. Judging from the personal experiences of many in this locale, you should plan for more than \$114 per day plus normal nursing home supply costs and medicine or medical expenses per patient; therefore, you may want to investigate one of the many insurance programs available.

Your retiree activities office does not sell insurance, but we are here to assist you. We have a listing of some of the organizations that provide these types of insurance, and our job is to help. Give us a call, 283-2737.

## Five things every retiree should do

**Retired Col. Bobby J. Kirkland**  
Retiree Activities Office  
director

Here are five things every military retiree should do this year.

- Vote. If you are not registered, do so now. Make your views on issues known to your elected representatives; advise them that you are retired military and that you vote. Then, go to the polls on election day. Unless military retirees utilize their full political potential, either by direct contact with their elected representatives, or by membership support of organizations that try to influence legislation preserving retiree benefits, we will likely see further deterioration of those ben-

efits.

- Ensure critical papers (DD Form 214, will, insurance, investments, banks statements, etc.) are in order. If your will is not current, update it. If you have lost a record, request a copy from the National Personnel Records Center: NPRC/NCPMF-C, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5000. Include your full name, Social Security Number and retired grade.

- Let your spouse or nearest relative know where your critical papers are kept.

- Get a complete health checkup.
- Get involved! The Tyndall Retiree Activities Office needs your help. If you have as much as three hours a week for volunteer work, call us at 283-2737, or e-mail us at: [tyndallrao@aol.com](mailto:tyndallrao@aol.com).

**Don't forget!**  
See a doctor and have a complete checkup at least once a year. It's the smart thing to do.



*The Tyndall Retiree Activities Office Newsletter is published quarterly as an insert to the Gulf Defender. Articles appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Air Force or Tyndall AFB. While editorial effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, no absolute guarantee of accuracy can be given or assumed. Editor: Retired Col. Bobby J. Kirkland, RAO director, 283-2737. Design/Layout: Mona Ferrell, 325th Fighter Wing public affairs, 283-2965.*



# New system allows retirees to surf web, access pay accounts

AFPC Retiree News

Some military retirees should already be able to use the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's new employee and member self service. Others will be added to the list very shortly if all goes according to schedule.

Personal identification numbers and instructions were mailed March 14 to a third of the military retirees; another one-third on March 28 and the final one-third were mailed Tuesday. The PINs are temporary and will be good for 120 days. At the first use, the customer will be asked to personalize the PIN.

In addition, instructions were mailed to civilian employees paid by DFAS March 10. Retirees who also work as civilian employees paid by DFAS will be able to access both their retired pay and civilian pay accounts using the same PIN.

According to DFAS officials, E/MSS allows retirees to access selected retired pay information and make selected changes directly to the DFAS pay record using the Internet or interactive voice response system technology. E/MSS provides alternatives to the use of mailed or telephoned requests.

Officials emphasize that the use of a PIN, together with a Social Security Number, assures that only the individual retiree can make changes to the retiree account.

Starting immediately (after receiving a PIN), E/MSS customers will be able to:

- Change their federal tax withholding status and exemptions.
- Start, stop or change direct deposit allotments.
- Change correspondence addresses

(available via the Internet option, only).  
• Update electronic funds transfer address for net pay.

In future phases, additional transactions will be available to DFAS customers via E/MSS.

Although complete instructions will be sent by DFAS, they are printed below for early familiarization. In the event there may be last minute changes, please go by the DFAS statement.

**Accessing E/MSS:** When you first access E/MSS, you will be asked to enter your SSN and your temporary PIN. You should then customize your PIN to a number of your choice. On-line help will be provided to assist you. Once your PIN is customized, you will then use the new, customized PIN for both E/MSS and to access your existing customer-service inquiry system. You may use this same PIN for accessing any other DFAS pay systems to which you are associated.

**How E/MSS works:** After you access E/MSS, menus will guide you through the transactions. The system will allow access to those portions of the pay account that retirees are currently able to change. Once the change is made, E/MSS will edit the input and ask you to confirm that the system has captured what you want to change. Finally, the system will tell you in what month your changes will be reflected on your pay record.

DFAS officials expect that by the end of the year, retirees will be able to review their retired pay account statement. What you need: In addition to your SSN and PIN, to use the web version of E/MSS you will need a personal computer with one of the following industry-standard browsers:

• Netscape Navigator Version 3.0, version 4.01 or higher.

• Microsoft Internet Explorer version 4.0 or higher.

• Netscape Communicator.

If your personal computer does not have one of these browsers, you will not be able to use the web version of E/MSS. However, the E/MSS IVRS phone capability is still an alternative for you.

**Security:** E/MSS Internet transmissions are secured using 128-bit encryption and secure socket-layer technology. Data encryption measures make E/MSS a secure means for you, the customer, to update your own pay-related information at your convenience.

**Questions:** The E/MSS web site has a frequently-asked questions and answers section if you need help. If you want to review information about E/MSS before you access the system, additional FAQs are posted on the DFAS information web site at: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).

**E/MSS hours of availability:** E/MSS is available to you seven days a week, 24 hours a day, except for short periods of system maintenance. E/MSS will display a message when the system is not available. For E/MSS and PIN assistance, call (800) 390-2348, commercial (216) 522-5122 or DSN 580-5122 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

DFAS has set up two phone numbers to access the E/MSS. You can call the interactive voice response system toll free by dialing (877) 363-367. The commercial number is (912) 757-3119.

The Internet address is: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).

Retirees are reminded that the use of E/MSS is voluntary, and the paper-based process will remain available if access to a computer doesn't exist or if the person simply doesn't wish to use E/MSS.

# Think about health care before you retire

Courtesy of the TRICARE Service Center

If you are approaching retirement from active-duty service, you have some important decisions to make regarding health-care coverage for you and your family. As an active-duty service member, you have received coverage similar to TRICARE Prime through the military health system. Your family had the option of choosing TRICARE Standard, Extra or Prime with no enrollment fees.

As a retiree, TRICARE will still be there to serve you and your family, but there are different options to consider and actions you must take.

Don't wait until the last minute to think about your health-care coverage. This decision should be incorporated into your overall individual transition plan. Health-care coverage should be considered about three to four months before retirement, if possible.

The following information will assist you in transitioning your TRICARE coverage status from active duty to retiree.

## Explore TRICARE options

Visit your TRICARE Service Center or call the beneficiary services line, (800) 444-5445, and ask for a copy of the latest TRICARE Choices brochure and the provider directory for your area. These two booklets will help you evaluate the benefits and costs associated with each TRICARE option. You can also access the TRICARE Choices brochure and the latest provider listings through the Humana Military Health Care Services web site at: [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com).

In addition, you should attend a retirement briefing on base to learn more about your TRICARE options.

## Update military status in DEERS

Your new military status, new address (if applicable) and all other personal information concerning you and your family members need to be updated in DEERS so that new military identification cards reflecting your retiree status can be issued.

You can check your DEERS file by calling (800) 538-9552. Changes to your DEERS record can be made at your base personnel office or online at: [www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/).

## Learn About MTF health care in your area

Remember, now that you're retiring from the military, your care will not automatically be handled by the military health system. As a military retiree, you may find that a civilian provider satisfies your

health-care needs, depending on your area and the capacity of your local military treatment facility. Space-available appointments and admissions at MTFs may be difficult to obtain as a military retiree using TRICARE Standard due to the access priorities set by the Defense Authorization Act of 1996 and the policies of the MTF Commander.

These factors should be considered as you decide which TRICARE option is right for you and your family. If you prefer to be treated at the MTF, enrollment in TRICARE Prime should be strongly considered.

Here are some things for those who have other health insurance to think about.

## Consider how it works with your TRICARE coverage

Many military retirees have other health-care coverage through their workplace or their spouse's coverage. When you receive care, you must submit your claim to the other health insurer first. After the other insurer has processed your claim, TRICARE will coordinate benefits which may pay part of your out-of-pocket expenses.

Please bear in mind, if your other health insurance is provided through an HMO, TRICARE Prime may not be the best choice for you, since the program requirements of both systems must be met to receive health-care benefits.

## Choose a TRICARE option for you and your family members

The three options, TRICARE Standard, Extra and Prime, are described in detail in the TRICARE Choices brochure, which is available at the local TRICARE Service Center. If you choose to enroll in TRICARE Prime, you need to fill out the enrollment form enclosed in the TRICARE Choices brochure, choose a primary care manager for yourself and each family member you are enrolling and pay the enrollment fee. Enrollment should be completed before your retirement date to ensure continuity of your coverage.

The staff of the TRICARE Service Center and the Beneficiary Services Line can answer your questions about your TRICARE options and help you fill out enrollment forms, including the selection of a primary care manager, should you elect to enroll in TRICARE Prime.

For more information call the TRICARE Service Center, (800) 333-5331, or beneficiary services, (800) 444-5445.

# New AF policy requires all outpatient medical records be kept at a MTF

Courtesy of the 325th Medical Group

In our continuing effort to provide our patients with outstanding service, the medical records staff of the 325th Medical Group asks that you return any outpatient medical records in your possession. New policy guidelines issued by HQ USAF/SG requires that all outpatient records remain in-house.

It's important that patients not keep their records at home. "There is a lot of loose documentation that needs to be in the records," a 325th Medical Group official said. "Obviously, if patients keep their records at home or in the car, we can't maintain the record as accurately as we need to. If patients require a copy of their outpatient medical record for their personal file, our staff would be glad to make one for them. However, because of the increased demand due to this policy, we require seven to 10 duty days to provide those

copies."

Medical records provide caregivers with chronological documentation of a patient's complete medical history. It's critical that this information is available when needed by the medical group staff. For more information about this policy, call outpatient records, 283-7651.

325th MDG officials would also like to remind people that medical information from health records will not be released to any person or agency without written consent of the patient concerned or their legal representative. This includes radiology and laboratory results. In order to obtain a Consent for Release of Outpatient Medical Records form, patients are asked to go to outpatient records and complete the form. The form will then be placed in the member's record which will preclude the hassle of retrieving the information later when a dependent spouse, mother, father etc., has an emergency at another medical facility that requires the information.



## Lunch buffet at the enlisted club

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

*Chef's choice*  
**Steak  
Italian  
Country food  
Seafood**

# Congress guarantees veterans' funeral honors

*Air Force News Service*

As America bids farewell to the veterans of World War II, Congress has taken steps to ensure they receive their ceremonial due.

By law, as of Jan. 1, all eligible veterans are entitled to military funeral honors signifying America's gratitude for their honorable service. Upon request, two service members will fold and present the American flag to surviving family members, and a bugler will sound "Taps." If a bugler is not available, a compact disc will be used.

At least one member of the funeral detail will be from the deceased veteran's parent military service. The other may be from the same service or another military service. Other authorized providers, such as members of a veterans' organization, may be used to augment the military detail. No particular rank is specified in the law, but the services by tradition have ensured the person presenting the flag to the family is at least the grade of the deceased veteran.

One quarter of the nation's 26 million veterans alive today are over age 65. Department of Veterans Affairs officials project the rate of veterans' deaths will rise through 2008 to about 620,000 per year, up

from 456,000 deaths in 1989 and 537,000 in 1997.

At the same time, requests for funeral details have risen. The active force has fallen from 2.1 million to 1.4 million since 1989, with about a third stationed overseas or deployed on contingency operations. Similarly, the Reserve components have shrunk from 1.2 million to 900,000 since 1989. In addition, 77 United States installations have closed since 1989, and 20 more will close by 2001.

While many veterans think of military funeral honors as a right, the honors grew from custom, not Department of Defense policy. Until the new law, nothing actually said the honors were a mandatory function.

By law, veterans are now eligible for military funeral honors if they served in the active military and were discharged under honorable conditions, or if they were a member or former member of the Selective Reserve. Veterans are ineligible if they are convicted of federal or state capital offenses and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole or receive the death penalty.

DOD's new policy calls for funeral directors, rather than families, to contact the military and request funeral honors—they aren't provided automatically.

## Protect your SSN

*AFPC Retiree News*

Although Social Security numbers were originally intended to be used for record-keeping purposes by the Social Security Board only, overtime Social Security numbers have become widely used for many business transactions.

While Social Security number usage makes much of today's electronic commerce and record keeping possible, it also presents dangers to individuals.

With your Social Security number and a few other key facts, an imposter can assume your identity and wreak havoc with your life. That's why it's important for you to take a few steps to safeguard your personal information including your Social Security number.

Here's what you can do: Keep your Social Security card in a safe place, don't carry it around with you and be careful when giving the number to others.

If you have good reason to suspect someone is misusing your Social Security number, report it to Social Security's fraud hotline, (800) 269-0271. Depending on your particular case, the Social Security Administration may open an investigation.

## Retiree spotlight



Staff Sgt. Mona Ferrell

### Retired Major Paul R. Lippincott

Retired Maj. Paul R. Lippincott, Retiree Activities Office volunteer, spent approximately 22 and one-half years in the Air Force. A native of Zephyrhills, Fla., his job as an RAO volunteer entails helping retirees of all services understand their retiree benefits and helping them obtain benefits, if needed. Lippincott said he volunteers to give back to the service that did so much for him.

# RAO director presents notes of interest ...

## Space A Lodging

Did you know that Air Force policy has changed for space-available lodging? Reservations may now be made 24 hours before arrival, and may be confirmed for up to three days if space permits.

Duty travelers will also no longer "bump" space-available guests with confirmed reservations, nor will they bump them once they have been assigned quarters for a specific period of time (up to three days). This is a change from the old policy where space-available customers could not receive confirmed reservations, and could be bumped by duty travelers.

In addition, most lodging facilities will negotiate reduced rates for their space-available guests under their commercial-lodging contracts if there are no accommodations available on base.

A toll-free number is available to use in making Air Force continental United States lodging reservations. The toll free number is (888) 235-6343.

After the toll-free number is dialed, you will hear a recorded prompt asking you to dial the first three digits of the base. For example, if you are calling to make a lodging reservation at Tyndall, you would then dial TYN to be connected to the lodging office here.

*Source: AFPC Retiree News*

## SSN beneficiary death

When a person receiving Social Security benefits dies, a family member or other person responsible for the beneficiary's affairs

should do the following:

- Promptly notify Social Security of the beneficiary's death by calling SSA toll free at (800) 772-1213.

- If monthly benefits were being paid via direct deposit, notify the bank or other financial institution of the beneficiary's death. Request that any funds received for the month of death and later be returned to Social Security as soon as possible.

- If benefits were being paid by check, do not cash any checks received for the month in which the beneficiary died or thereafter. Return the checks to Social Security as soon as possible.

A one-time payment of \$255 is payable to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the beneficiary at the time of death, or if living apart, was receiving Social Security benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is made to a child who was eligible for benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record in the month of death. The following booklets contain information about filing for benefits and can be downloaded from the Social Security Internet site at: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) under their publications section. They are also available at your local Social Security office, or by calling (800) 772-1212.

Survivors Benefits (publication No. 0510084); Social Security: Understanding the Benefits (publication No. 05-10024)

*Source: AFPC Retiree News*

## Address updates

Retiree activities offices are not authorized to make address changes for retirees. The Defense Finance Center in Cleveland, Ohio, is the central clearinghouse for all military retiree pay records. The Denver DFAS office handles accounts for annuitants.

Keeping these offices informed will help ensure you will never miss a pay day. Almost as important, your retiree publications will continue uninterrupted.

Many retirees who have their monthly payments sent electronically to their banks often forget that DFAS also maintains a correspondence address for them. Even if a move does not result in a change of banks, the retiree should still provide the new address to DFAS. This enables delivery of periodic information from DFAS as well as this newsletter, and the Afterburner, the Air Force's retiree newsletter. Addresses for these are provided to publishers based on information in the DFAS file.

Any time you change your mailing address write to one of the following offices:

**Retirees:** DFAS-Cleveland Center, DFAS-CL/FRB, P.O. Box 99191, Cleveland, Ohio 44199-1126. Mark envelope "change of address" and include your retired grade and Social Security number.

**Annuityants:** (surviving spouses who receive pay under the Survivor Benefit Plan; or Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan); DFAS-Denver Center, DFAS-DE/FRB, 6760 E. Irvington Place, Denver, Colo. 80279-6000. Include retired grade

and SSN of sponsor and your SSN.

**Non-annuityants:** (surviving spouses of Air Force retirees not receiving an Air Force annuity): HQ AFPC/DPPT, 550 C Street West, Suite 11, Randolph AFB, Texas 78150-4713. Include sponsor's retired grade and SSN.

*Source: AFPC Retiree News*

## Retiree news service

The following establishes procedures for Air Force retirees and family members to subscribe to an Air Force Retiree News Service furnishing news articles and informational features pertinent to, or of general interest to, members of the Air Force retiree community.

The intent of this list server is to help inform members of the Air Force retiree community – including family members – about legislation, policies and other matters affecting their rights, benefits and obligations. Articles transmitted through this service will be official Department of Defense information unless information from outside agencies is deemed by the Retiree Services Branch staff to be appropriate and extremely important to the retiree community. Information disseminated through this service may at times duplicate official information available from other federal sources.

This service will not be used to send messages from one retiree to other retirees nor will it be used to transmit information readily available via civilian print and broadcast media. At times the Retiree News Service may link an article to Internet

sites for additional information. Such links are for informational purposes only and are in no way intended to promote or endorse the products or services offered by the host site.

You can sign up for the service by following the directions below. You may want to print out these directions, especially if you are not familiar with subscribing to such services.

In the e-mail message **TO** block type the following address: [majordomo@listsrv.afpc.randolph.af.mil](mailto:majordomo@listsrv.afpc.randolph.af.mil). Leave the subject line blank.

On the first line of the message body, type: subscribe afretire. The next step is to **send the message**.

In return, you will receive two messages almost at the same time.

The first with a subject "major-domo results" will acknowledge receipt and give directions on what to do with the second message, which is titled "confirmation for subscribe afretire." In other words, you then have to do something to confirm you really do want to subscribe.

With that message you simply hit the "reply" button and then delete everything in the message block except the line starting with "auth" which contains your complete e-mail address. That line should end up being the first line in the message space. The next step is to **send the message**.

A third message will be the "Welcome to afretire" message. Within the next couple of weeks, you will start receiving retiree information from AFPC.

*Source: AFPR Retiree News*